House Unit Probing Oswald Phone Conversations

CIA Ex-Officer to Be Called

By Ronald Kessler
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The Holse Select Committee on Assassinations plans to subpoena retired Central Intelligence Agency officer David A. Phillips to question him about a telephone call made by Lee Harvey Oswald to the Soviet embassy in Mexico City eight weeks before President Kennedy's assassination.

A committee source said Phillips who heads the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers, which is la leading defender of the CIA, will be subpoenaed to testify within a few days before a closed session of the committee's unit investigating the Kennedy assassination.

Richard A. Sprague, chief counsel of the full committee, said yesterday that it has launched an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the telephone call as reported in yesterday's editions of The Washington Post.

The Post story said that the CIA intercepted and tape-recorded Oswald's call to the Soviet embassy in late September, 1963, but did not turn it over to the FBI, which has responsibility for investigating possible spies. It also did not turn it over to the Warren Commission during its investigation of the Kennedy assassination, The Post said.

Instead, the CIA gave the FBI a brief report that did not mention Oswald's offer of information, but said only that Oswald had contacted the Soviet embassy, The Post said. The CIA later provided the Warren Commission and the Senate intelligence committee, which investigated the Kennedy assassination earlier this year, with transcripts of Oswald's call that omitted his offer of information in exchange for a trip to the Soviet Union.

After the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, the CIA claimed that is was not aware of most of Oswald's activities in Mexico City two months before the assassination because Oswald had not mentioned his name in his conversations.

However, Phillips, who saw the CIA transcripts of Oswald's conversations before the assassination, the CIA translator in charge of preparing the transcripts and the typist who prepared them each told The Post that Oswald had mentioned his name in the conversations.

They also said Oswald was offering information to the Soviets and requesting a free trip to Russia.

Since the CIA claims that the tapes of Oswald's calls were destroyed about a week after the conversations took place, few individuals have personal knowledge of what was said.

The CIA has declined to comment.

In addition to obtaining Phillips' testimony, a House assassination committee source said the panel intends to identify and interview the CIA translator and typist, who were interviewd by The Post in Mexico.

Phillips said yesterday from his home in Bethesda that committee investigators were in touch with him yesterday and wanted to talk with him further.

Panel Asked to Investigate Killing of Panther Leader

Associated Press

The House Select Committee on Assassinations yesterday was asked to investigate the 1969 killing of Chicago Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton on grounds he was set up by the FBI through an informer and "murdered" in a raid carried out by a special force of the Chicago police.

Morton H. Halperin, a former staff member of the National Security Council and now director of projects in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union, requested action in a letter to Richard A. Sprague, chief counsel and staff director of the newly-formed House panel.

Halperin said FBI complicity was established by documents and information that came to light during the $47.5 million civil damage suit against federal, state and local authorities now underway in Chicago. The suit was filed by relatives of Hampton and Mark Clark, another Black Panther member killed in the raid on their apartment.

Chicago police have said the raid was carried out to confiscate weapons held by the Panthers and that police fired their guns in response to shots from the apartment's occupants.

DAVID A. PHILLIPS
... saw transcripts of telephone calls

Halperin said that a resolution setting up the House panel to investigate the assassinations of President Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. also authorized the committee to probe the deaths "of any others the select committee shall determine."